

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

January, 1979
Issue No. 76

STEPHEN P. ALPERT
Editor

IMPORTANT REMINDER - It's now time to pay the \$2.00 dues for your 1979 CATC membership. Please send dues to our secretary Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90044.

While you're at it, jot down and send in your collecting interests, so they can be compiled for the next CATC Membership List. Our club membership is steadily growing, and attendance at meetings is up about 50% lately. Let's keep the momentum going by renewing your membership and spreading the word about CATC to other token collectors. Our low annual dues of \$2.00 represents what is probably the best exonomia value around, especially if you attend the meetings.

We have another new member to welcome, Floyd Holliday of Garden Grove, who joined earlier this month.

JANUARY MEETING: To start 1979 off with great expected success, our first meeting of the new year will be hosted by Bob Ritterband on January 21, from about 1:00 to 4:30 PM. Bob's address is 6576 Colgate Ave. in Los Angeles, located about ½ mile north of Wilshire Blvd. and 3 blocks west of Fairfax Ave.

Despite the football game, there should be a good turnout, with lots of tokens available for swapping or purchase, as usual. A few newcomers to token collecting plan to be guests at the meeting, so be sure to attend and greet them.

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT: The November CATC meeting in Van Nuys, at the home of Frank Roselinsky, was attended by 12 members (Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Andy Crusen, Don Finch, Bob Kubach, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Frank Roselinsky, Ken Smith, Paul Thompson, and Elaine Willahan) and 2 guests (Eleanor Smith and Norma Roselinsky). Frank introduced us to the 20 volume Encyclopedia of Collectibles that he subscribes to, and Bob Null informed members present of the latest news on the series of RTD paper tokens appearing currently in newspapers around the Los Angeles area. A lot of token activity and delicious refreshments made this an excellent meeting.

CONSUMER ALERT: Every so often an ad appears in coin newspapers that offers for sale apparently common tokens at very high prices (such as amusement, tax, or transportation tokens at several dollars each. A most outrageous ad has been appearing in Coin World the past couple of months, where "Brassco" of Las Animas, Colo. is offering for sale wooden nickels at \$5.00 each, five for \$24.50, ten for \$45.00, 100 for \$450.00 or 1,000 for \$4,000.00. For comparison, another ad nearby in the same classification offers 1,000 wooden nickels for \$16.00. Unfortunately the possibility exists that some uninformed person(s) or newcomers to exonomia will buy at those prices.

METCA'S A MUST FOR ALL TOKEN COLLECTORS The MERCHANT TOKEN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION (METCA) is not just for merchant token collectors. All types of exonomia are covered in METCA's monthly publication, TRADE TOKEN TOPICS, published and edited by Bary Bender, 752 N. 74th, Seattle, Wash. 98103. Lately Trade Token Topics is bigger and better than ever, and features the latest news in the world of exonomia, and the largest number of ads of all token periodicals. If you don't already subscribe, send for a sample issue or send the \$7.50 annual dues directly to the above address.

AMUSEMENT TOKEN CATALOGUE
NOW IN PRESS

Your editor is currently busy typing up the camera-ready manuscript for the new amusement token catalogue by CATC members Steve Alpert and Ken Smith. The arrangements with the publisher, the Mead Co. of Long Beach, are completed, and the book is expected to be available before this summer. This issue of TOKEN TOPICS was prepared on the new typewriter I recently obtained for typing the manuscript. In the next issue of TOKEN TOPICS I'll report how many amusement tokens will be listed in the new book. I'm counting them as I type; my guess is about 10,000 tokens. Next issue should also have further information on the Amusement Token Collectors Association (see the November issue of TOKEN TOPICS).

The Mead Co. publishes the only professional magazine for the antique coin machine hobby, LOOSE CHANGE. I wrote a feature article in the September 1978 issue on amusement tokens, and it has generated some interest in these tokens from the machine enthusiasts. I am currently working on the staff of LOOSE CHANGE as an assistant to the editor, and I'll be writing an illustrated monthly column on amusement machine tokens, beginning in the Feb. 1979 issue. I encourage everyone interested in old pinball, slot, vending and music machines to consider subscribing to LOOSE CHANGE magazine, as it provides much information on the machines and their manufacturers. The subscription fee is \$22.00/year. If you write to me in care of Loose Change, 21176 S. Alameda St., Long Beach, Calif. 90810, I'll have a free sample back issue sent to you (offer good to CATC members only). The Sept. issue featuring Amusement tokens is sold out, unfortunately. I'll bring to the January CATC meeting a couple of back issues for examination.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR
NATIONAL MAVERICK LISTING

Lou Sutton, of 4819 Poolside Rd., Virginia Beach, Va. 23455, is compiling a National Maverick Listing and he requests assistance from all token collectors. He is compiling all maverick tokens, which are tokens that do not bear the city and state on the token, and thus are difficult to attribute to the place where they were issued and used. Lou is compiling mavericks that have been identified, as well as those still unattributed, and also all those that have a city but not state on the token.

So far he has 24,000 maverick tokens on file, but this is probably just a drop in the bucket. The number of such tokens is astounding, and the challenge to identify them is a favorite pastime of many token collectors. That's what makes old city and business directories so desirable nowadays.

Lou's goal is to provide a source for the identification of all U.S. mavericks. Lou requests that all token collectors send him listings of all the maverick tokens they have, preferably as clear rubbings or impressions. Include metal, size and shape of the tokens, as well as the legends. If Lou can identify any tokens on your list, he will let you know. I recently sent him a list of the non-amusement maverick tokens I have, and I was pleasantly surprised at some of the attributions he provided. You probably will be too, so take time to contribute to his project, which I believe is too large for one person to complete alone, but very easy if every token collector helps out. His project will benefit all collectors and the entire hobby.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR CATC DUES; IT'S OUR ONLY SOURCE OF FUNDS.

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

March, 1979

Issue No. 78

STEPHEN P. ALPERT

Editor

M A R C H M E E T I N G Our secretary Elaine Willahan will host our next CATC meeting to be held on Sunday, March 18, from about 1 to 5 pm in her home at 516 West 99th St. in Los Angeles. Use the Harbor Fwy, exit at Century Blvd, go a block west to Figueroa and a block north to 99th St. Elaine's is the first house west of Figueroa on the south side of 99th St.

At the meeting, Jim Garner will give what should be a very interesting talk on Ku Klux Klan medals and tokens, a very popular collecting field.

I M P O R T A N T N O T E S This is the last issue of Token Topics you will receive if you have not yet paid your 1979 \$2.00 dues to CATC. Please send the dues to Elaine at the above address. A dozen members are tardy, and we do not want to lose even a single one of you.

It has happened again - recent issues of Token Topics were misnumbered and the error apparently went unnoticed. The Nov. 1978 issue should be No. 76 (not 75) and the Jan. 1979 issue should be No. 77 (not 76). Some members save Token Topics for their library, as taken all together they contain a wealth of exonomia information. Is there any interest in reprinting the complete set of Token Topics? If so, write.

JANUARY MEETING REPORT Our January meeting was hosted by Bob & Molly Ritterband. There were fifteen members present (Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Dan Ching, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, James Garner, Robert Kubach, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Bob Ritterband, Frank Roselinsky, Ken Smith, Alan Weinberg, Elaine Willahan) and four guests (Diana Elman, Richard Massey, Molly Ritterband, and Eleanor Smith). It was an active meeting enjoyed by all, and it demonstrated that not even the Superbowl game can draw dedicated token enthusiasts away from our meetings.

For those of you who never attended a meeting, here's how they go (with examples from the Jan. meeting). From about 1 to 3 pm is a free for all token trading, buying, selling, exhibiting, and just plain old token talking session. Then begins the business meeting, where our secretary Elaine reads correspondence from distant members; our treasurer Andy gives his financial report (we have \$276.91); announcements are made (Steve Alpert discussed the new series of Dinosaur Coins in Post cereal's Cocoa and Fruity Pebbles, which prompted some brave members to begin eating that stuff just to obtain the coins); miscellaneous business discussed (the current CATC officers will continue in office another year); and then usually a short program by one of our members on their collection or activities (Bob Ritterband gave an impromptu talk on the bus tours he runs for Santa Monica City College). After the business meeting, refreshments are served and the token activities resume.

N E W M E M B E R S We have five new members to welcome this time: Jim Williams of Van Nuys, Calif.; Lorin Cranson, Rt. S, Box 5820-B, Juneau, Alaska; John T. Hamilton III, P.O. Box 2191, La Jolla, Calif.; Rich Hartzog, P.O. Box 4143, Rockford, Ill.; and Robert E. Coney, 2627 Myrtle, Sioux City, Iowa. Jim is with Treasure Magazine. Lorin collects Mont., Calif., & Alaska tokens. John collects Ariz., N.M., Indian trader, and military tokens, and has Calif. tokens for trade. Rich is an exonomia dealer who collects Civil War, Hard Times, sutler, ¼¢ tax tokens, Ill. mirrors and encased coins. Robert collects personal tokens.

Since last meeting, Roland Atwood has moved. His new address is Casa Monica, Room 22, 1032 7th St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90403. (Phone 394-1808)

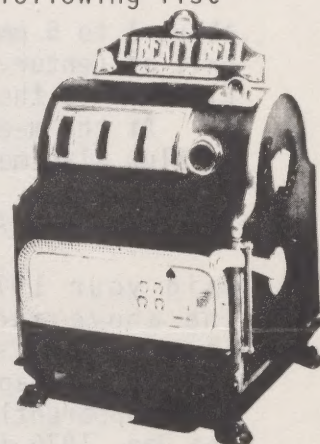
AMUSEMENT TOKEN CATALOGUE MANUSCRIPT COMPLETED

The comprehensive catalogue of amusement tokens by CATC members Steve Alpert and Ken Smith is expected to be published before this summer. The book will individually

list over 10,000 amusement tokens, with over 500 tokens pictured. The authors recently put the final touches on the lengthy and informative introductory section of the book, and they are greatly satisfied with the contents of the book and equally enthusiastic about the future of amusement token collecting. The following list shows the breakdown of the over 10,000 tokens by state and type.

AL 2	HA 6	MA 3	NM 1	SD 3	Wash.D.C. 5
AK 3	ID 18	MI 56	NY 32	TN 9	Puerto Rico 0
AZ 13	IL 466	MN 3285	NC 0	TX 14	Canada 120
AR 0	IN 42	MS 0	ND 2	UT 10	Unidentified 563
CA 823	IA 15	MO 19	OH 96	VT 9	Mfr. stock initial 230
CO 34	KS 8	MT 8	OK 28	VA 6	Phrases 688
CT 1	KY 15	NE 9	OR 66	WA 35	Trade Stimulator 254
DE 0	LA 15	NV 110	PA 25	WV 2	Numbers 2851
FL 6	ME 0	NH 0	RI 1	WI 44	
GA 2	MD 31	NJ 86	SC 8	WY 5	TOTAL: 10,182

THE LIBERTY BELL
World's First Slot Machine



NEW AMUSEMENT ARCADE TOKENS APPEARING IN SOUTHERN CALIF.

Several amusement arcades around Los Angeles have recently issued tokens used to operate their pinball and miscellaneous modern arcade machines. Malibu

Grand Prix in Northridge, Castle Family Fun Centers (Van Nuys and elsewhere), Fun Arcade (= Arcade USA) in Van Nuys, and the 5th Token Amusement Center in Arleta (New town!) have all issued tokens, which are listed below.

- (race car) / MALIBU / GRAND PRIX
B 23 Sd Not Negotiable / Malibu / Money / No Cash Value
- CASTLE FAMILY FUN CENTERS / (jester with golf club)
WM 23 Sd Non Negotiable / Good / For / One / Play / Non Redeemable
- ARCADE / U.S.A. (all incuse)
B 23 Sd (same as obverse)
(This token was used in 1978 only, and is similar in appearance to a parking token.)
- ARCADE / TOKEN
B 23 Sd Non-Redeemable / For / Arcade / Play / Only / No Cash Value (vars.)
(In use 1978 to present; a reorder for a second 10,000 tokens resulted in a second die variety.)
- NON REDEEMABLE * NO CASH VALUE / 5TH / TOKEN / AMUSEMENT CENTER /
9042 WOODMAN AVE. / ARLETA CA. / IN FUN WE TRUST
B 23 Sd Family Amusement / (pinball machine) / Token

A couple of the arcades are small, especially the one in Arleta, which has only a dozen machines or so. But it offers the most for your money, as the tokens are 5 for \$1.00 (or 27 for \$5), and one token put in the machine gets you two pinball games of 5 balls per game. At other arcades or locations it may cost a quarter for one pinball game consisting of only three balls. So you get 10 balls for 20¢ as opposed to 3 balls for 25¢.

Arcades in your area may be using tokens, so check them out and please report all discoveries of new tokens.

TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

May, 1979
Issue No. 79

STEPHEN P. ALPERT
Editor

MAY MEETING: John and Virginia Barnes will host our May Meeting, Sunday afternoon, May 20, beginning about 1:00 PM, at their home at 4021 Pacheco Drive, Sherman Oaks. Here's how to get there: from the northbound San Diego Freeway, use the Ventura Blvd offramp and immediately turn right onto Sepulveda. Go south on Sepulveda 2 blocks and turn left onto Valley Vista. Continue on the winding Valley Vista about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and turn right onto Stone Canyon; go one block and turn right onto Pacheco Drive, and proceed another block to the Barnes home (4021, on the right, look for CATC sign). From the westbound Ventura Freeway, exit at Van Nuys Blvd, go left 4 blocks to Ventura, go right on Ventura a few blocks and turn left on Kester Ave. Go about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to Valley Vista, turn right, then left onto Stone Canyon, then right on Pacheco as above. If you get lost, phone John at 783-6745 for assistance.

This promises to be another excellent meeting. However the gas situation for that weekend looks grim, so be sure to allocate some of the precious gas you have in your tank for the short trip to and from the meeting.

MARCH MEETING REPORT: Our March meeting was well attended, with 17 members and 6 guests on hand. Present were members Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, James Garner, John Hamilton, Floyd Holliday, Robert Kubach, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Wally Shidler, Ken Smith, Kirk Smith, Alan Weinberg, and Elaine Willahan. Present as guests were Harriet Carter, Ron Holliday, J.H. McInnis (editor of N.A.S.C. Quarterly), Eleanor Smith, and Stan and Betty Wilker.

With such a large turnout, everyone was kept busy swapping and discussing tokens. James Garner gave a very interesting talk on the Ku Klux Klan and their exonomia. He explained the usage of these cryptic tokens, what the initials on the pieces represent, and the jargon of the KKK. Jim's KKK collection, and that of John Hamilton, was passed around during the presentation. Afterwards, everyone celebrated Roland Atwood's 83rd birthday. Steve Alpert presented him with three ancient coin replicas made for use in the 1926 MGM film BEN HUR, in which Roland had a bit part. In addition to acting as an extra in silent movies, Roland also worked for many Hollywood celebrities such as Kirk Douglas and Jane Mansfield, as chauffeur and groundskeeper.

NEW MEMBER NEWS: John Hamilton has recently opened a shop in San Diego specializing in tokens, medals, and related collectibles. Named Collectors Classics, the address is 310 Fifth Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92104. Business hours are Tu,Th 10-5; F,Sat 10-8; Sun 12-5. John suggests calling first (233-0655) to make sure he's in. He reports that he has an enormous stock consisting of all types of exonomia, so be sure to visit him when you're down that way.

Stan Wilker of Rancho Palos Verdes joined CATC at the March meeting. He and his wife Betty collect old slot machine tokens. They are authors of the Official Loose Change BLUE BOOK and RED BOOK price guides for antique slot machines and trade stimulators, respectively. The books are available at \$6.95 each (+ tax) from the Mead Co., 21176 S. Alameda St., Long Beach, Calif. 90810. Steve Alpert, Ken Smith, and Bob Rosenberger are other CATC members very interested in slot machine tokens.

We have two other new members to welcome: Patrick D. Hogan, 614 S. Johnson St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240 (collects Chinese American tokens and western tokens with oriental legends), and Bob Swain, Modesto Coin Center, 1700 McHenry Village, No. 76E, Modesto, Calif. 93350 (collects saloon tokens). Secretary Elaine Willahan reports that only 2 members didn't renew for 1979, a record low for recent years.

Robert Ritterband has for sale 39 issues of the Franklin Mint monthly Almanac from late 1969 to early 1974. The price is \$10 for all, so if interested, contact Bob at 6576 Colgate Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90048.

AMUSEMENT TOKEN CATALOGUE REPORT Work on this long awaited book by Steve Alpert and Ken Smith has resumed after a short delay and is nearing completion of the final page pasteup. It should be published this June or July. The price for the 8½x11 book cannot be set until the exact page count is known, but it should be very reasonable.

BIG COLLECTIBLES SHOW HERE IN OCTOBER The publisher of the above book (Mead Co., Long Beach) and R.G. Canning Enterprises (Rose Bowl Swap Meet) are putting on a large antique collectibles show at the Great Western Exhibit Center in Los Angeles on Oct. 5, 6, 7 later this year. Called the LOOSE CHANGE FUN FAIR it will feature all kinds of collectibles, including tokens and medals. I encourage all token dealers to have a booth at the show, to make this a mini token jamboree in part. For more details see the enclosed colorful handbill.

**MORE NEW
AMUSEMENT
ARCADE TOKENS**

Since last issue, two new amusement arcade tokens were discovered. One is from the TIME ZONE arcade in Salinas, Calif. The other is from a small arcade in Yucca Valley, Calif. named WHERE IT'S AT. Reproduced at the right is the newspaper ad which lead me to visit the arcade to check for the use of tokens, and sure enough they were selling them at 5 for a dollar. The only foreign tokens they had encountered were a few of the Good Time Tokens from Riverside (see Nov.'78 Token Topics) but they had no idea where they were from. The two new tokens are described below:

TIME ZONE / Z / TM / FAMILY FUN CENTERS
B 25 Sd The Best In Fun For Everyone / Play / 25¢ / Value

WHERE / IT'S AT
B 23 Sd Family Amusement / (pinball machine) / Token

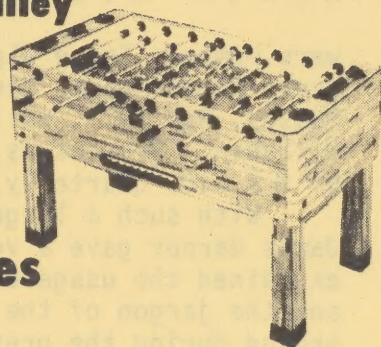
There must be dozens of new California amusement arcade tokens yet undiscovered, so check out every arcade in your vicinity and those you spot in your travels. The tiny arcades are just as likely to use tokens as the large arcades. Please report new issues to me (Steve Alpert, 11106 National Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90064).

DO YOU KNOW

"WHERE IT'S AT"

In Yucca Valley

★ **PINBALL**
★ **FOOS BALL**
★ **Assorted
Electronic Games**



HOURS:

Tues.-Thurs. 'Till 10 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 'Till Midnight

"WHERE IT'S AT"

56760 29 Palms Highway Yucca Valley

NEXT TO NAUGLES

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

July, 1979
Issue No. 80

STEPHEN P. ALPERT
Editor

JULY MEETING: Elaine Willahan will host our midsummer meeting, on Sunday, July 15, from about 1PM to 5PM, at her home at 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles (at Figueroa; use Century Blvd. exit of Harbor Freeway, go one block west and one block north).

The program at the July meeting will be a token auction. Each member attending may submit up to five lots. Each lot may be one token or medal, or a boxfull. There will be no minimum bids or reserves, which will assure interesting bidding competition. Ten percent of the prices realized will go into CATC's treasury. John Barnes will preside as auctioneer. If you want to submit lots for the auction, attach each lot to a 3x5 card (if possible) and write your name and description of the lot on the card. All the lots will be displayed before the auction. If this experiment proves successful and popular, it could be adopted as a regular feature of each meeting.

MAY MEETING REPORT: A small but enthusiastic group of 13 members and one guest turned out for the May meeting, hosted by the Barnes. Present were Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John and Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, Jim Garner, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Bob Rosenberger, Ken Smith, Alan Weinberg, Elaine Willahan and guest Eleanor Smith. Bob Rosenberger brought along his collection of old slot machine manufacturer tokens, and informed the group on the growing desirability and value of these tokens, both to old coin machine collectors and token collectors.

NEW MEMBERS: We have six new members to welcome: Kevin Pullin of Claremont, Calif.; Samuel Danze of Cadiz, Ohio; Norton E. Steenfott of Eureka, Calif.; Rolla R. Ross of Cos Cob, Conn.; Jean Reisman of North Hollywood, Calif.; and Brian G. Kestner of Millbrae, Calif. Most of the new members collect trade tokens or amusement tokens. Complete addresses for the new members will be included in the new CATC membership roster (see below).

On a sad note, CATC charter member Ralph Freiberg of San Francisco passed away in May after a long illness. Ralph was one of the most dedicated and enthusiastic token collectors in the entire hobby, and he devoted an enormous amount of time and energy researching and cataloguing transportation tokens. The CATC has contributed \$5.00 to the AVA Tribute Fund in Ralph's memory.

CATC MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: A new list of our over 75 CATC members is now in the works. It lists the name, address, membership number, and collecting interests of all members, and it will be distributed to members only with the September issue of Token Topics. Secretary Elaine Willahan has prepared the first draft of the list, which will be available at the July meeting for those present to make corrections or revisions of their collecting interests. If your membership number is in the list below, we have no knowledge of your collecting interests: 84, 147, 130, 174, 105, 125, 169, 136, 172, 157, 54, 73, 71, 82, 171, 7, 74, 133, 151, 166, 161, 112, 175. If you want to have your collecting interests listed, send them to Steve Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, Calif. 90066 as soon as possible.

This list will enable collectors of the same items to trade with each other, and to trade types of tokens you don't collect for those you do. The large number of new members in the past two years makes this list very useful.

AMUSEMENT TOKEN CATALOGUE REPORT: "Amusement Tokens of the United States and Canada" by Stephen Alpert and Kenneth Smith is now in the hands of the publisher, and should appear in August or September. Watch for announcements in other token publications and the coin newspapers. The book contains information on the Amusement Token Collectors Association (ATCA) to be founded after the book is published.

NEW LAS VEGAS CASINO TOKENS: I recently visited Las Vegas and noted that several casinos are now using new dollar gaming tokens, similar in size and appearance to those issued during the silver dollar shortage of the late 1960s. The majority of the new tokens are white metal, but at least one casino is using brass tokens. The casinos probably will not convert their dollar slot machines to take the new Anthony dollar coin. I noticed that about 5 to 10% of the coins paid out by the dollar slot machines (in casinos not using tokens) are not Ike dollars but these dollar-size tokens from various casinos (technically illegal, I believe).

The success of having large numbers of dollar slot machines in circular or oval carousel arrangements with a change girl within, has lead some casinos to do the same with \$2 or \$5 slot machines. These operate on special tokens, good nowhere else in the casino. The Fremont and Four Queens in the downtown area use \$2 tokens (WM,34mm) and the Stardust on the Strip uses large \$5 tokens (WM,44mm).

The giveaway free slot play tokens are still going strong in Las Vegas. As of the end of June, at least eleven casinos are using these tokens, which are obtainable with coupons only (from funbooks, funpacks, or newspapers). Some casinos give them out liberally, while others give you the runaround treatment just to obtain a few. The casinos using these tokens (and the type of tokens) are: In the downtown area, The Four Queens (yellow plastic) and the Holiday International (aluminum). On the Strip: Foxy's Firehouse Casino (red plastic); The Sahara (aluminum); Silver Bird (aluminum); Westward Ho (plastic, several colors); Silver City (aluminum); El Morocco (green plastic); Mr. Sy's (black plastic); The Treasury (iron); and The Hacienda (aluminum).

NEW PINBALL ARCADE TOKENS: Pinball amusement arcade tokens apparently are in widespread use, and again I urge you to check the arcades in your area for tokens. No one has reported to me discoveries of new arcade tokens since last issue, but I have discovered three new tokens, listed below.

(arch around top) / SEGA / CENTER / NO CASH VALUE
WM Oc Sd (Same as obverse) (22½mm)
(This token has replaced the round token used previously.)

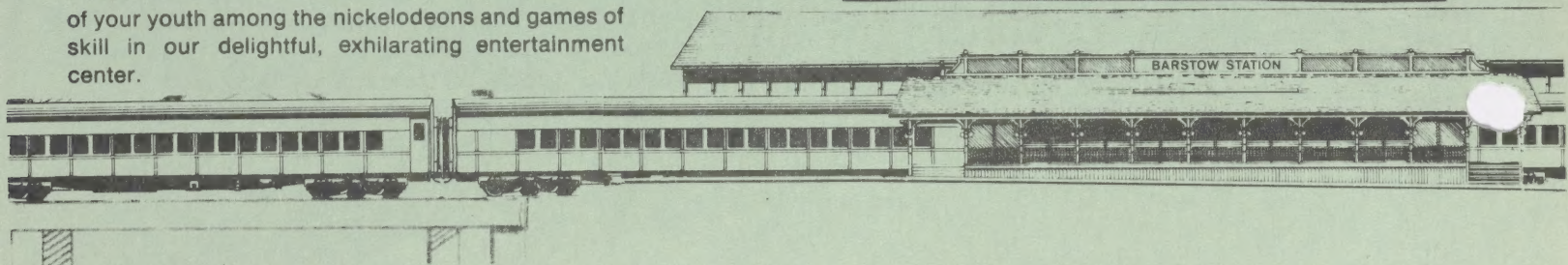
THE / MACHINE / SHOP
B 23 Sd (Same as obverse)
(Location unknown; obtained at a coin shop in Las Vegas.)

BARSTOW STATION ARCADE / (front view of locomotive) / CALIFORNIA
Bz 25 Sd The Best In Fun For Everyone / Play / 25¢ / Value
(Located in Barstow Station, Barstow, Calif.; token manufactured by Van Brook of Lexington, Ky.)

THE **ARCADE**

FUN! ENTERTAINMENT! SKILL! Recapture the zest of your youth among the nickelodeons and games of skill in our delightful, exhilarating entertainment center.

BARSTOW STATION



TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

September, 1979

Issue No. 81

STEPHEN P. ALPERT

Editor

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Frank Roselinsky will host our September meeting on Sunday, Sept. 16, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM, in his home in Van Nuys, at 13213 Aetna St. (near L.A. Valley College). From the Ventura Fwy, go north on Coldwater Canyon Ave. to Oxnard St. Turn left (west) on Oxnard and go a few blocks to Atoll Ave.; turn right and go one block to Aetna and turn left to 13213 Aetna. You can phone Frank at 781-5509 if you get lost or need help finding his place.

We will have another token auction at the September meeting, so bring along whatever you wish to have auctioned off (limit 5 lots per person please). The first auction was successful, and is reported on below.

JULY MEETING REPORT: The July meeting, hosted by Elaine Willahan was well attended, with 22 people present as follows: members Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John & Virginia Barnes, Al Constable (new member), Andy Crusen, Don Finch, James Garner, Edrick Miller, Bob Null, Robert Ritterband, Bob Rosenberger, Wally Shidler, Ken & Kirk Smith, Alan Weinberg, Elaine Willahan, Jim Williams, Stan Wilker, and guests Betty Wilker, Eleanor Smith and Pat Miller.

The meeting was quite active. Jim Williams brought along dozens of rubbings of interesting tokens and medals for other members to help identify. Jim is editor of Treasure magazine, and readers who find tokens and medals with their metal detectors write in to find out what the items they found are; the identifications are published in the magazine.

Bob Ritterband discussed the new plastic tokens which can be ordered through him. Two sizes (29 & 41mm), 9 plastic colors and 8 ink colors are available, any combination you desire. Many stock designs are available, but most exciting is that any suitable design, logo, or black and white line drawing can be used at no extra cost! It must be sharp - no photos, shadings, etc. Write Bob at 6576 Colgate Ave., L.A., CA 90048 for an information and order form. The small tokens are 10¢ each, large 12¢, minimum order 250. I recently ordered some for myself; they are very attractive, the colors are bright, and the plastic is superior to the type usually used for plastic tokens elsewhere, in my opinion. A 1918 Mills O.K. Vender slot machine is illustrated on the reverse of my personal token. It is an appropriate machine, as more tokens were issued for the O.K. Vender than any other slot machine. This is now one of the stock designs available to you when ordering plastic tokens from Bob.

The first club auction at the July meeting was very interesting. John Barnes did an excellent and entertaining job as auctioneer. About 25 lots were auctioned off, and many bargains were obtained by the successful bidders. Here are some of the prices realized: 5 diff. foreign transp. tokens, \$1.25; 3 Livingston, Calif. trade tokens, \$1.75; Mills Novelty Co. San Francisco 2 bits token, \$2.50; a carton of several thousand Costa Mesa dog tags, \$1.75; several lots of mixed or identical parking tokens sold for about 5¢ per token; 2 midwest trade tokens, \$1.40; a five-piece set of miniature US coins, 75¢; and a box of about 50 pieces of mixed exnumia sold for \$5.50 after much bidding. Ten percent of the selling prices (about \$4.00) went to the club's treasury. It was noted that lots consisting of assorted tokens sold for higher prices than lots of multiples of the same thing.

We will have another auction at the September meeting. Don't miss it. And submit interesting tokens. Good tokens will bring good prices.

MEMBERSHIP LIST: The 1979 CATC Membership List containing the collecting interests of members is enclosed (to members only) with this issue. Read it over and correspond with members who share your interests.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome this time four new members: Herbert Bernhard, Al Constable, George Dmitrevsky, and Cy Phillips, Jr. Their collecting interests and addresses are on the membership list.

AMUSEMENT TOKEN CATALOGUE REPORT: The publisher of the catalogue "Amusement Tokens of the United States and Canada" by Stephen P. Alpert and Kenneth E. Smith has been delaying publication of this book. It is currently scheduled for release in early October. The publisher has placed an excessively high price of \$24.95 on the book, for which the authors apologize. Autographed copies can be ordered by mail from either author (addresses on membership list). The Amusement Token Collectors Association will be formed later this year; details are in the book, or write authors.

NEW CATALOGUE ON "LARGE LUCKY SOUVENIR COINS" I (Stephen Alpert) have just privately published a first edition catalogue entitled "Large Lucky Souvenir Coins" covering the series of paperweight-sized lucky coins issued at tourist spots and attractions all over the country since 1914. The soft-covered booklet lists 271 lucky souvenir coins, Atwood style; 48 pieces are illustrated both obverse and reverse by photographs. The book can be ordered from Stephen P. Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, Calif. 90066, for \$5.00 each postpaid (sent first class) (Calif. residents add 6% sales tax). I'll also have copies for sale at the Sept. CATC meeting.

MORE NEW AMUSEMENT ARCADE TOKENS: Two more new arcade tokens have been discovered since last time:

REDONDO FUN FACTORY / (clown's head) / CALIFORNIA
A 28 Sd No Cash Value (reeded edge)
(From Redondo Beach, Calif.; payout token of a coin fall machine.)

FREEDOM / (eagle on shield; wreath)
B 23 Sd No / Cash / Value
(This stock token was made by Van Brook of Lexington, Ky. It is in use at Jim's Arcade in Westchester Faire, 8655 S. Sepulveda Blvd., L.A., Cal. 90045, but it is probably also used at other arcades all over the country.)

NEW (?) CAR WASH TOKEN: I obtained the token described below from another coin-op car wash a few miles from Marina Del Rey, Calif. I am listing it here in case it hasn't been reported before.

4075 LINCOLN BLVD. MDR OPEN 24 HRS. 7 DAYS / DEL REY / CAR WASH / TOKEN
B 23 Sd Protect Your Investment Inexpensive Convenient Safe / For Use /
At Del Rey / Car Wash / Only

ELECTION TIME APPROACHING: Nominations will be taken at the September meeting for CATC club officers for 1980. The only qualification is for the member to be able to attend the meetings regularly. The election will be held at the November meeting, which will be hosted by Elaine Willahan. The January meeting will be hosted by Robert Ritterband, for those of who who like to plan ahead. Remember, our meetings are always on the third Sunday of odd numbered months. Mark your calendars now.

MORE ON LAS VEGAS TOKENS: Bob Kubach reports: "I can add 2 more Las Vegas free play tokens to your list (July Token Topics). Jolly Trolley used them but is not using them now. The Royal Las Vegas Hotel uses them. Eat in coffee shop and get coupon for 5 tokens. Played all 5 at once and won \$12.50. So went back for another meal to get token for collection."

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

November, 1979

Issue No. 82

STEPHEN P. ALPERT
Editor

DUES NOTICE: Now's the time to send in your 1980 California Association of Token Collectors dues, still just \$2.00. The CATC has greatly increased in membership the past couple of years, and we hope to keep all of you as members as we continue to grow. Send your dues to CATC Secretary Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90044, or submit them in person at the November meeting (see below).

There are two new members to welcome with this issue of Token Topics: F. A. Rohrman of San Clemente, Calif.; and Robert A. Johnson of Baltimore, Md., who collects Amusement Tokens.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Once again our secretary Elaine Willahan will be hosting the November meeting, November 18 (Sunday), 1-5 PM, at her home at 516 West 99th St. in Los Angeles (at Figueroa, one block north of Century Blvd.). Highlights of the meeting will include another token auction. Try to bring along some interesting items for the auction; remember, there are no minimum bids to make for an interesting auction.

Members Steve Alpert and Ken Smith will have on display and for sale copies of their recently published book on "Amusement Tokens of the United States and Canada".

In addition, we will vote for the 1980 CATC officers at the November meeting. Nominations so far are:

President: Stephen Alpert
Vice President: James Garner
Secretary: Elaine Willahan
Treasurer: Andy Crusen

A large turnout is expected for the November meeting, so please be sure to attend if possible.

SEPTEMBER MEETING NEWS: A relatively small but enthusiastic (as always) turnout of 13 members and 2 guests met in Van Nuys in September at the home of Frank Roselinsky. Present were Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John & Virginia Barnes, Andy Crusen, Larry Elman, Don Finch, Jim Garner, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Frank Roselinsky, Alan Weinberg, Elaine Willahan, and guests Norma Roselinsky and Lucy Perez.

Just a dozen items were submitted for the September auction, the highlight of which was an 1867 bridge token selling for \$8.00 (a record high price for a token at our auctions so far). Auctioneer John Barnes does a good job discussing the items on the block and encouraging bids from those present.

ANOTHER ARCADE TOKEN IN USE LOCALLY: Jack Donnelly reports that the following token is being used at the Electric Flipper

Arcade in Rosemead, Calif.:

NO CASH VALUE / (eagle) / NO CASH VALUE
B 23 Sd (bullseye target of concentric circles)

This is a stock token made by Van Brook of Lexington, Ky., and probably used at arcades all over the country. Jack also reports that the Good-Time Token previously illustrated in Token Topics is also being used at the Playland Arcade on Santa Monica Pier.

**WESTERN STATES TOKEN SOCIETY
HOLDS MEETING IN ANAHEIM**

The Western States Token Society recently held one of their very infrequent meetings in Southern California, this past October 27 at the California State Numismatic Association convention in Anaheim. Many CATC members attended the WESTS meeting (Steve Alpert, Ken Smith, Bob Null, Don Finch, Andy Crusen, Elaine Willahan, Jack Donnelly, Larry Elman). News and details of this meeting were received too late for publication in the September Token Topics, thus I'm sure other CATC members would have attended had they known of the meeting. Many northern collectors came down for the show and WESTS meeting, including Duane Feisel, Charles Kappen, Vincent Beretta, Dan Jacobsen, Jere Runciman and Frank Earl. Many others were also present.

There was much token activity among the participants, as well as a discussion of recently published and upcoming books on tokens. Included were the Amusement Token book (Alpert & Smith); the WESTS book on Calif. bicentennial medals; a new edition of Nevada Trade Token Place Names (Dunn & Feisel); the new telephone token book (Frank Earl; see below); a new edition of Transportation Tokens of the World (Ken Smith), to appear in several volumes; and a new edition of Album's catalogue of California trade tokens, to be organized in 2 volumes, older tokens and modern tokens, with the dividing point about 1948.

Frank Earl had his new book "Slotted, Grooved & Punched, Handbook of U.S. Security Telephone Tokens" available at the meeting. This book covers the Goetz-type telephone tokens -- the ones with the odd-shaped holes, slots and grooves. Frank introduces a new and interesting cataloguing format for these tokens. This is truly a handbook and workbook, as ample room is provided in the book for recording and entering new discoveries. The history and evolution of these telephone tokens are covered in the introductory sections of the book. As this is a handbook, there aren't any photos; but there are numerous excellent outline sketches and drawings throughout the book. The book is available for \$6.50 from Frank Earl, P.O. Box 4, Jackson, Calif. 95642.

Just before the WESTS meeting, an auction at the convention presented a collection of about 450 California tokens from the estate of Jack Nestle. Several WESTS members were interested in the lot, but it went to a mail bid of \$785 (below auctioneer's estimate of one to two thousand). The collection was about 90% common items, with just a few very good pieces.

For information on joining WESTS, write Duane Feisel, P.O. Box 1302, Los Altos, Calif. 94022. Dues are 7.50 a year, and you receive their Western Token Ledger, published 6 times a year, which is full of interesting token news, articles, book reviews, and ads.

**AMUSEMENT TOKEN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
BEING ORGANIZED**

Now that the new Amusement Token book is out (available for \$24.95 plus sales tax from Stephen Alpert, P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, Calif. 90066), authors Steve Alpert and Ken Smith are founding the Amusement Token Collectors Association (ATCA). This will be an informal organization for collectors and enthusiasts of amusement tokens and the old coin-operated gambling and vending machines they were used in. So far about 25 people have joined. There are no initial dues at all. Just send a stamped return envelope to Ken Smith, 328 Ave. F, Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277, and you'll be sent further details and a membership list. Formal organization of ATCA probably will not take place until early next year.